THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. The Coast Guard ships are adequately equipped with modern equipment to perform the assigned tasks.

(b) Does not arise.

Military hardware pact signed with Russia

399. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India benefits from Military hardware pact with Russia signed recently between the two countries during Prime Minister of India's visit to Moscow, in July, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of the Joint Venture Company Indo-Russian Aviation Pvt. Ltd. indicating particularly servicing facilities, market for ASEAN region, uninterrupted supply of critical spares and ammunition for the Indian armed forces etc.; and

(c) whether both the countries will equally share the financial burden, Joint research and development expenditure and also strengthen our vastly under utilised defence production base?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) No military hardware pact between Russia and India was signed during the recent visit of Prime Minister. However, an agreement on formation of a joint venture company by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) alongwith certain Russian organisations was signed in Moscow on 30 June, 1994. The scope of activities of the joint venture company covers warehousing of aviation stores and servicing, repair, and modification, etc. of aeronautical equipment.

Illegal hutments in Defence lands near IGI Airport

400. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of illegal hutments have come up on the vast area of land managed by Defence Estate Office near IGI airport threatening the flight safety;

(b) if so, since when unauthorised construction of hutments has been going on the defence land posing serious threat to flight safety; and

(c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government to get the unauthorised land vacated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) An area of 112.57 acres of Defence land in Survey No. 176 known as East Mahram Nagar, close to the IGI Airport is under the management of the Defence Estates Officer, Delhi Circle. About 145 people had constructed some accommodation unauthorisedly on Defence land measuring 0.623 acres prior to 1973. No fresh encroachments have since occurred. Government have not received any reports from the concerned organisations of perceived flight safety hazards on account of the hutments in the vicinity of IGI Airport.

Since 1974, the Defence Estates Officer, Delhi, has been able to remove one encroachment. The problem of eviction of the encroachments i.e. the hutment dwellers is linked with the problem of providing alternate land sites for the purpose of rehabilitation, for which the Defence Estates Officer had taken up the matter with the Delhi Administration in 1988. An appropriate plan of action is yet to be drawn up.